

EXHIBIT 8  
DATE 1/18/07  
HB 189

1320 Hauser Boulevard  
Helena, MT 59601

January 18, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

I would like this letter to be placed on record in support of HB 189. I am testifying from both a scientific and personal perspective, having conducted intensive wildlife research and recreated in the headwaters of the North Fork of the Flathead since 1979. I am also a landowner in the Flathead area north of Polebridge, MT. I am very concerned about the impacts the proposed Cline Coal Mine will have on 1) the water quality of these pristine headwaters of the Flathead, 2) the unique and abundant wildlife, including the full complement of Rocky Mountain wildlife species, and 3) US-Canadian relations regarding transboundary resource management issues.

We need to fully understand the impacts of this proposed mine to best assess its ecological influence throughout the watershed. The best tool to do this is sound scientific water quality research. It is essential that we do everything we can fiscally and administratively to empower The Flathead Basin Commission to carry out its mission of monitoring water quality in the effected area. This 'good faith' effort will demonstrate reciprocity to the Canadians. If this bill is not passed, we will be sending the message to the Canadian officials that monitoring is not important and then British Columbia has no motivation to collaborate with us in our water quality protection efforts for Glacier National Park and Flathead Lake.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my strong support for this bill, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Diane K. Boyd, Ph.D.